

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01

/073 W

-----221300Z 011749 /44

P R 221205Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3467

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SU, ET, UR

SUBJECT: CONTINUING GOS SUSPICIONS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR

ETHIOPIAN RADICALS

1. FONMIN MAKKAWI TOLD AMBASSADOR JAN 22 THAT GOS REMAINS CONVNCED USSR SYMPATHETIC TO ETHIOPIAN RADICALS, LED BY MENGISTU, AND FIRMLY OPPOSED TO CONTINUATION NIMEIRI REGIME IN SUDAN. MAKKAWI SPOKE BITTERLY OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS CONVINC HIM ETHIOPIAN EVENTS REPRESENT GENUINE REVOLUTION WHILE AT SAME TIME A REQUEST WAS PENDING FOR SOVIET AIRCRAFT TO OVERFLY SUDAN FROM LIBYA FOR ETHIOPIA CARRYING "BOOKS". CLEARANCE REQUEST WAS REFUSED AND MAKKAWI RESISTED SOVIET AMB'S EFFORTS PROVIDE EXPLANATION.

2. CITING ONE REPORT INDICATING EPMG IN PROCESS WITH-
DRAWING OFFENDING ANSAR CAMPS FROM FRONTIER AREA, MAKKAWI

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SAID ETHIOPIANS THEMSELVES MIGHT WISH REDUCE TENSION WITH SUDAN. HOWEVER, THEY WERE BEING QUOTE PUSHED UNQUOTE BY QUOTE OTHERS UNQUOTE. SOME IN EPMG MIGHT BE OPPOSED CLOSE USSR/ETHIOPIAN TIES, BUT MAKKAWI THOUGHT DOMINANT ELEMENT IN DIRG UNDER MENGISTU DEFINITELY FAVORED CLOSEST COOPERATION. WHEN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE THERE COULD BE CLOSE MOSCOW/ADDIS TIES VIEW LONGSTANDING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN SOMALIA,

FONMIN OPINED LATTER RELATIONSHIP WAS ATTENUATING. SOMALIS WERE TIRED BEING HELD IN CHECK BY MOSCOW ALONG ETHIOPIAN AND TFAI BORDERS, WHILE RUSSIANS SEEM TO FEEL ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION REPRESENTED MARCH OF HISTORY REQUIRING SUPPORT, EVEN THOUGH ITS LEADERS MIGHT WELL BE CHANGED.

3. MAKKAWI COMMENTED THAT RECENT CURFEW IMPOSED THROUGH AL ATRUN AREA OF WESTERN SUDAN WAS DESIGNED BLOCK FURTHER SMUGGLING OF ARMS BY LIBYANS AND QUOTE RUSSINAS UNQUOTE INTO SUDAN. WHILE ANY SUCH ARMS MIGHT WELL BE MADE IN USSR, AMBASSADOR WONDERED HOW MAKKAWI COULD BE SO SURE DEGREE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. MAKKAWI REITERATED HIS SUSPICIONS, STRESSING SOVIET SYMPATHY FOR REVOLUTIONARY DIRG AND INDICATING HE HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN ANY SOVIET PROFESSIONS OF DESIRE GOOD RELATIONS WITH NIMEIRI REGIME.

3. COMMENT: MAKKAWI'S REMARKS ECHO VIEWS WE HAVE BEEN HEARING IN RECENT WEEKS FROM TOP-LEVEL IN NIMEIRI REGIME. WHILE WE BELIEVE THIS VIEW EXAGGERATED, SUDANESE CONCERN HAS CLEARLY BEEN FUELED BY NUMBER INTELLIGENCE REPORTS (MAKKAWI HIMSELF SPOKE OF RADIO DETECTION OF MESSAGES EXCHANGED OUTSIDE SUDAN) WHICH, COUPLED WITH CLOSE CALL LAST JULY, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO ATMOSPHERE OF CONCERN AND MISTRUST HERE ON PART LEADERSHIP REGIME. BREWER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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